

The President's Hebdomadal Blue Ribbon Newsletter Celebrating 111 years of educational excellence in Covington 342 years of Lasallian tradition throughout the world December 05, 2022 – January 03, 2023





Welcome to the penultimate week of the first semester and my final 2022 newsletter.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near! Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!

We certainly need to hear these words. The horrific loss of two good, faithful, prominent Catholic Covingtonians last week has rocked our usually peaceful north shore life. Enough has been written and spoken about this tragedy by others far more gifted in word and speech than I am, so I will leave it to each of us to compose any further words of comfort and peace. Just be assured that the prayers and support of the Saint Paul's Community are with the victims, their families and friends, and all whose lives were touched by them. In our Catholic tradition, we pray for all. Now, perhaps more than ever, we "wait for the Lord" to bring peace to our lives and world – and we must be strong and take heart that his day is near.

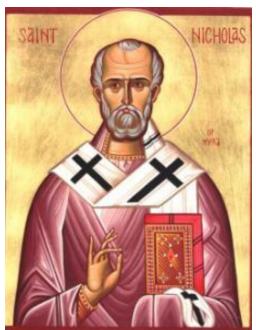
Eternal rest grant unto Father Otis and Ms. Prats, O Lord, and let perpetual light shine upon them!

Mon, Dec 5 (F G A B)

- This Day in History: In 1901, Walter Elias Disney is born. Watch a Disney classic today!
- **Bathtub Party Day:** Relax with a good soak!

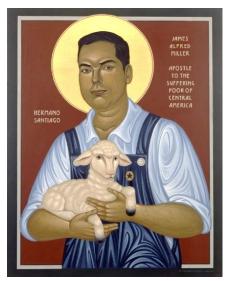
Tue, Dec 6 (C D E F -- Assembly)

• Traditional Feast of St. Nicholas: From American Catholic.org: Eastern and Western Churches honor Nicholas; it is claimed that, after the Blessed Virgin, he is the saint most pictured by Christian artists. Nicholas was the fourth-century bishop of Myra, a city in Lycia in Asia Minor. The best-known story about him concerns his charity toward a poor man who was unable to provide dowries for his three daughters of marriageable age. Rather than see them forced into prostitution, Nicholas secretly tossed a bag of gold through the poor man's window on three separate occasions, thus enabling the daughters to be married. This particular legend evolved into the custom of gift-giving on the saint's feast. In English-speaking countries, St. Nicholas became, by a twist of tongue, Santa Claus..



- **TDIH:** In 1884, in Washington, D.C., workers place a nine-inch aluminum pyramid atop a tower of white marble, completing the construction of the Washington Monument
- Microwave Oven Day: Celebrate this marvel of technology and microwave something today
- **Basketball:** SPS/SSA Basketball Classic

Soccer: 9th v. Hannan (5



Wed, Dec 7 (G A B C)

• Dec 7 marks the three - year anniversary of the Catholic Church beatifying Brother James Miller, FSC as a martyr for the Catholic Faith. For Catholics, this is one step away from official sainthood. As our Superior General, Brother Robert, wrote at the time: Brother James (1944-1982) was martyred on Feb 13, 1982 in Huehuetenango, Guatemala. His murder was a futile attempt to extinguish the light of Christ and calls us to remember those countless others...whose lives were cut short because they strove to awaken people to the inherent dignity of God's daughters and sons. Brother James was committed to the well-being of the young people entrusted to his care, especially indigenous young men at risk. Brother James' beatification is evidence that great things are possible through the ordinary activities of our ministry of human and Christian education. Blessed Brother James!

Help us live courageously this Advent and always!

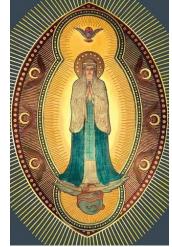
- **TDIH: Pearl Harbor Day.** In 1941, The Empire of Japan attacks Pearl Harbor. This "day which will live in infamy" forced the US into World War II. We remember those who gave their lives for us.
- Letter Writing Day: When was the last time you wrote a letter? Been too long? Then write one today!
- Blood Drive: There is still time to donate! Here is the scheduling link: https://www.tbcdonors.org/donor/schedules/drive_schedule/45568
- **Drama:** And Then There Were None (7)
- Soccer: JV & Var at Slidell for start of District Play. Geaux Soccer Wolves!

Thu, Dec 8 (D E F; 9 am start; Feast of Immaculate Conception; All School Mass; Dress Uniform Day)

- In his meditation for the **Immaculate Conception**, Saint La Salle tells the brothers to "Look upon Mary as the masterpiece from God's hands and ask him to free you from everything that might make you fall into the
 - least fault, especially into any sins." So great was this feast that in the rules of some early communities, the brothers are told that "everything that is most beautiful will be used" to celebrate it. And considering the austerity in which the early brothers lived, that's important! May Our Lady, important to Lasallians, shower us with blessings! May "everything that is most beautiful" on our campus honor her always.
- **TDIH:** In 1980, John Lennon, a former member of the Beatles, the rock group that transformed pop music in the 1960s, is shot and killed by an obsessed fan in NYC. All he was saying was give peace a chance.
- **TDIH II:** 11660, a female actress appeared as Desdemona **in Shakespeare's** *Othello*, probably the first appearance by a woman actress in England. For years, female roles were played by boys or men. The British saw women on stage earlier when a troupe from France included women. But they were not received
 - well according *to* one audience member, the women were "hissed, hooted, and pippin-pelted off the stage." But by 1660, actors were confident enough to feature a woman as Desdemona. There is no record of who the actress was, but scholars guess that it was Margaret Hughes, whom Samuel Pepys described as "a mighty pretty woman."

Drama: And Then There Were None (7)

- **Brownie Day:** Enjoy this chewy, chocolate treat if your health allows it!
- **Basketball:** 8/9 v. Bro. Martin; JV/V at Tara
- Cross Country End of Season Banquet



Fri, Dec 9 (G A B C)

- Today is the feast of Saint Juan Diego, which celebrates Mary's appearance to Juan Diego, an Indian peasant, in Mexico City. She told Juan, "I will show and offer all my love, compassion, and help to the people. I am your merciful Mother. I will hear their weeping and their sorrows and will remedy their suffering." She told Juan to ask the bishop to build a cathedral in her honor. The skeptical bishop asked for a sign; Juan offered his coat, where the image of Mary (still existing today) was miraculously imprinted as Our Lady of Guadalupe. "Guadalupe" means River of Light, as Mary gave birth to Jesus, Light of the World
- TDIH: In 1854, Alfred Lord Tennyson's publishes his poem "The Charge of the Light Brigade," which commemorates 600 courageous British soldiers charging a heavily defended position during Crimean War.
- Cole writes his prayer on a luminaria bag in Wolf Pack.
- **TDIH:** In 1608, British poet John Milton is born. Considered by some to be second only to Shakespeare, his works include *Paradise Lost & Paradise Regained*.
- **TDIH:** In 1886, American industrialist Clarence Birdseye was born in Brooklyn. He developed a method of deep-freezing foods and was a founder of General Foods Corp.
- Pastry Day: Indulge with your favorite pastry again, if your health allows it!
- **Drama:** And Then There Were None (7)

Sat, Dec 10

- **TDIH:** In 1830, famous American poet Emily Dickenson is born. Read Emily today!
- **TDIH:** In 1896, Swedish chemist and inventor of dynamite Alfred Nobel died in Italy. His will stipulated that his large estate be used for recognizing persons who made valuable contributions to humanity. Today, \$1 M Nobel Prizes are awarded in chemistry, physics, medicine, economics, literature (yeah!) and peace on the anniversary of his death.
- **TDIH:** In 1898, the US and Spain signed The Treaty of Paris following Spain's defeat in the Spanish-American War. The US gained the Philippine Islands, Guam and Puerto Rico and Spain withdrew from Cuba. The treaty passed by a single vote in the US Senate and was signed by President William McKinley.
- Human Rights Day promotes awareness of human rights issues around the world, and highlights the efforts
 of the United Nations to improve global human rights conditions.
- **Dewey Decimal Day:** Today honors the birthday of Melvin Dewey who created the classification of books used by libraries, known as Dewey Decimal System. If you are really bored, listen to the Dewey Decimal System Rap at http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=NHiUQb5xg7A#t=26. I would invite you to our library to see DDS in action, but that, too, when the way of the Benilde Hall renovation!
- Mothers' Club Bookstore Christmas Sale (10 − 2)
- ACT on campus
- Robotics: RoboWolves in F'bleau Competition Wrestling: SPS v. Holy Cross
- **B'Ball:** 8th in Hannan Tournament; JV & V v. Parkview **Soccer:** 8th at BM; JV/V at Vandebilt Catholic

Sun, Dec 11 (Third Sunday of Advent; Gaudete (Rejoice) Sunday for the coming of the Lord is near!)

- TDIH: In 1941, Germany declares war on the US, bringing the US into the European WWII.
- TDIH: In 2013, we dedicated the Alumni Veteran Plaque in La Salle Hall. The late Mr. Harry Friedman '33 donated funds for a memorial to all SPS Alumni Veterans. The plaque is hung by the ROTC classroom. I doubt if many of us even know about this plaque, much less have taken the time to look at it and perhaps read some of the names. Sad. And I'm guilty, too, as I just walk by it so many times. In view of today's TDIH, it was an appropriate day for dedication. We thank all who have so served our country.

Mon, Dec 12 (D E F G)

- Today is the **Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe**, **Patroness of the Americas**. Again, God shows his love for the poor. Mary assumes the form of an Indian lady and uses Juan Diego, a peasant, to bring the Message to all. This is a special day for Mexican people, since the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe is located in Mexico City. We pray, too, for the great Mexican Lasallian institutions.
- **TDIH:** In 1901, Italian physicist and radio pioneer Guglielmo Marconi sends first radio transmission across Atlantic, disproving those who said that the curvature of the earth would limit transmission to 200 miles or less. The message--simply the Morse-code signal for the letter "s"-- traveled more than 2,000 miles from Cornwall, England, to Newfoundland.
- **Poinsettia Day:** Admire this iconic Christmas plant! The date marks the death of Joel Roberts Poinsett, an American botanist, physician and Minister to Mexico who in 1828 sent cuttings of the plant he'd discovered in Southern Mexico to his home in Charleston, South Carolina. Botanically, the plant is known as Euphorbia Pulcherrima. And now you know.

Tue, Dec 13 (Special Exam Schedule; 8 am start; 1 pm dismissal; letter jacket ordering after dismissal)

• **TDIH:** In 2000, VP Al Gore concedes defeat to Texas Governor George Bush for the presidency, following weeks of legal battles over the recounting of votes in Florida. Anybody remember hanging chads?

Wed, Dec 14 (Special exam schedule; 8 am start; 1:00 dismissal)

- **TDIH:** In 1911, Norwegian explorer Roald Amundsen reaches the South Pole in Antarctica, marking the first time that humans reached the southern end of the Earth's axis. In 1799, George Washington, our first president, dies at his home in Mount Vernon, VA. He was 67 years old.
- Monkey Day: "Monkey business" is officially allowed today but not at school.

Thu, Dec 15 (Special exam schedule; 8 am start; 1:00 dismissal

- **TDIH:** In 1791, Virginia becomes the last state to ratify the Bill of Rights, making the first ten amendments to the Constitution law and completing reforms begun by the Declaration of Independence
- **TDIH:** In 1939, *Gone with the Wind* premiers in Atlanta (where else?) and shocks audiences when Rhett Butler (Clark Gable) says to Scarlett O'Hara (Vivian Leigh): *Frankly, my dear, I don't give a damn''* an unheard-of use of profanity on the silver screen in those days! Oh, for those days!
- **TDIH:** In 1978, President Jimmy Carter announces that the US would recognize Communist China and sever ties with Taiwan, reversing long standing US policy.
- TDIH: In 2005, ten million Iraqis take part in the first democratic election since defeat of Sadam Hussein.
- Cat Herders Day: For all of you cat lovers, herd 'em up today! But this is also a day to attempt an impossible task like herding cats.





Fri, Dec 16 (Exam Schedule; 11:20 dismissal; Christmas (not winter) holidays begin at 11:21

- **TDIH:** In 1773, the "Boston Tea Party" occurs when Massachusetts colonists disguised as Mohawk Indians board three British tea ships in Boston Harbor and dump 342 chests of tea into the water. The ships holding the tea were built in America and owned by Americans according to Boston Tea Party Ships & Museums. The museum states hundreds took part, with 116 individuals taking credit. The Sons of Liberty planned the Boston Tea Party, which could have attributed to the absence of violence and confrontation. The three-hour event occurred on Dec. 16, 1773, because American colonists believed Britain was unfairly taxing them.
- **TDIH:** In 1944, the infamous Battle of the Bulge began and lasted until Jan 25. This was a final, desperate attempt by Adolph Hitler to force a negotiated peace treaty with the Allied Forces on the Western Front. Caught unprepared, the Allied Forces suffered over 20,000 casualties before defeating the German army.
- Chocolate Covered Anything Day: Feel free to celebrate if your health allows it!
- Faculty Christmas Luncheon following dismissal

Sat, Dec 17

- **Today** begins the "final days of Advent", characterized by the "O Antiphons" taken from the Liturgy of the Hours. Today's antiphon: *O Sapientia*: *O Wisdom, O holy Word of God, you govern all creation with your strong yet tender care. Come and show your people the way to salvation.*
- **TDIH:** In 1903, Orville & Wilbur Wright fly first powered, controlled, heavier-than-air airplane at Kitty Hawk, NC for 12 seconds, 120 feet. It was the first controlled, sustained flight in a heavier-than-air craft.

Sun, Dec 18 – Mon, Jan 02 – Christmas (not winter) Holidays! You are on your own for athletic events, TDIH, National Whatever Days, H of the W, W of E, etc.

Tue, Jan 3, 2023 -- School resumes at 8 am; second semester begins with A B C D

Rise Up, O Men of God

I draw the following to your attention, in alphabetical order, not necessarily in order of importance.

ACADEMIC SUCCESS: We are almost finished the second quarter! If your son is struggling, insist that the go seek help. See info about free tutoring below. Help your son develop attitudes/habits for success.

ADMISSIONS FOR 2023 - 24: THANK YOU! I was pleased with the number of applicants for next year and offer my thanks to YOU – for promoting SPS Lasallian Catholic education so well. We routinely heard about the positive recommendations given prospective families by our current or former families. I am grateful beyond measure. **The next step in the process is Application Day testing on Jan 07. Please stress with people that this is a placement test, not an admissions test**.

At this point, Catholic high schools may not recruit any current students in Catholic elementary schools – as those students have already made their choice of high school. The only families I can still speak to are those in public and private schools. If you know of a family interested, I will be happy to meet and tour with them. Priority in admissions is given to students who take the placement test on Jan 07. Again, THANK YOU.

ANNUAL FUND APPEAL: Recently, we launched our Annual Fund Drive – just like almost every other private school. You should have received in the mail a brochure explaining the drive and a response card. I'm humbled by the number of you who anticipated the drive and already sent in your donations. The success of this drive is critical to Saint Paul's. Please keep us in mind as you plan your end of year giving. Again, thanks to all who have already contributed. We need everyone, to at least some degree, to follow suit. **And, yes, gifts of stock are welcome and you can make your AF gift through the I Give Catholic Campaign on Tuesday.**

ATTENDANCE: Please comply with our attendance regulations as printed in the handbook which is posted on Edline. This is especially true when a student is absent or needs to check out during the day.

BLOOD DRIVE: Our annual blood Drive will be December 7. Permission slips will be needed for 16 and 17-year-old students. Students must weigh at least 110 pounds, and not be in an active sports season. Each pint saves lives. And parents who wish to give are invited to stop by and donate. The set up will be in the gym lobby. **Give the gift of life this season!**



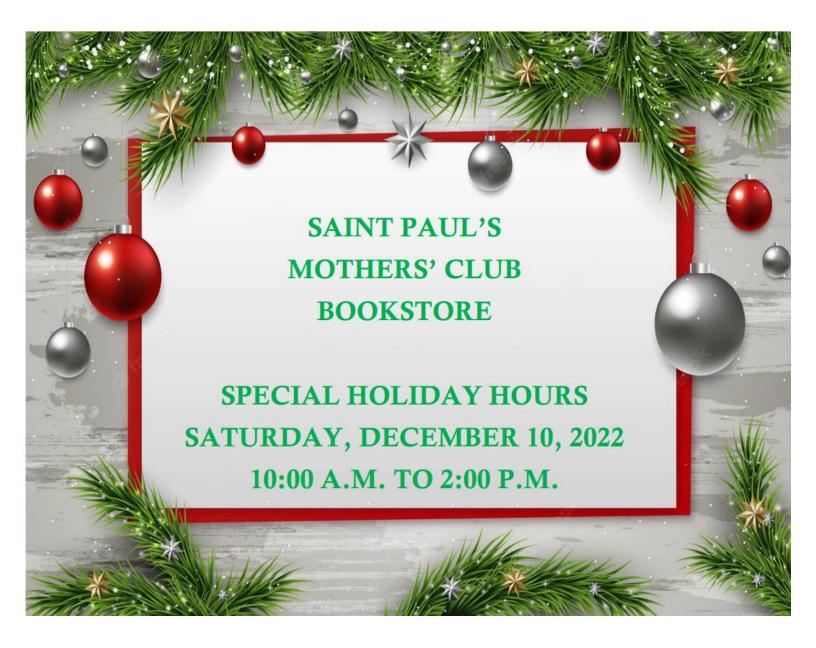
ST. PAUL'S BLOOD DRIVE

Wednesday, Dec. 7 8am – 2pm New Gym

sign up here!

BOOK STORE: The Mothers' Club Bookstore will be open 7:30 am to 8:15 am & 11:00 am to 12:30 pm each school day. **PLEASE patronize the MC's Bookstore when possible.**

BOOKSTORE CHRISTMAS SALE: I apologize for the erroneous info in last week's newsletter about the Bookstore Sale! This info is correct (I hope!): The Bookstore will be open on Saturday, December 10 from 10 – 2 for your Christmas shopping. Come take advantage of great bargains! Normal bookstore hours are weekdays 7:30-8:15 am and 11:15 am - 12:30 pm. All proceeds from the bookstore are used for the benefit of our students!



ATTITUDE OF GRATITUDE: Four years ago, National Public Radio's Morning Edition did a story of the role of gratitude and heart health. It's worth re-visiting. Here's the scoop: Research shows that feeling grateful doesn't just make you feel good. It also helps — literally helps — the heart. A positive mental attitude is good for your heart. It fends off depression, stress and anxiety, which can increase the risk of heart disease, says Paul Mills a professor of family medicine and public health at the University of California San Diego School of Medicine. Mills recruited 186 men and women, average age 66, who already had some damage to their heart, either through years of sustained high blood pressure or as a result of heart attack or even an infection of the heart itself. They each filled out a standard questionnaire to rate how grateful they felt for the people, places or things in their lives. It turned out the more grateful people were, the healthier they were. "They had less depressed mood, slept better and had more energy," says Mills. Read or listen to the full story at http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2015/11/23/456656055/gratitude-is-good-for-the-soul-and-it-helps-the-heart-too. Spend more time being grateful! It's good for the soul and the heart!



BOX TOPS FOR EDUCATION: Box Tops for Education continues to be an easy way to earn money for Saint Paul's. The traditional clip box tops have been replaced with an easy-to-use app. All you have to do is buy Box Tops participating products (like Cheerios!) and scan your grocery receipt. Box Tops are worth \$.10 each and twice a year, our school receives a check. **Download** Box Tops for Education app here:

https://btfe.smart.link/c2jjdifkw?referral_code=R26O6QQ0
Use this referral code R26O6QQ0 when you sign up and you'll get 20 Bonus Box Tops when you scan your first receipt now through

05/31/2023, while supplies last! If you have any questions email Shannon d'Hemecourt at s.dhemecourt@stpauls.com

CARE & VIGILANCE: As we approach holidays, remember de La Salle's concerns: care & vigilance – our mantras for the next three weeks. **We will be caring, but we will be vigilant. Please insist with your sons** that they adhere to all school regulations this week, so that we can begin a problem-free Christmas



CALENDAR FOR REMAINDER OF 2022-23

Mon, Nov 28 Classes resume from Thanksgiving Holiday

Tues - Fri, Dec 13-16 Semester Exams

Fri, Dec 16 Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams

Tues, Jan 03 Classes resume & Second Semester begins

Mon, Jan 16 Martin Luther King Holiday
Mon, Feb 06 Parent-Teacher Conferences 5-7

Fri, Feb 17 Faculty Retreat Day

Mon-Fri, Feb 20 - 24 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays

Mon, Feb 27 Classes resume

Fri, Mar 10 End of Third Quarter

Fri – Fri Apr 07 – 14 Easter Holidays (not spring break)
Mon, Apr 17 Classes resume from Easter Holidays

Wed-Fri, Apr 26 – 28 Senior Final Exams

Sat, May 13 Senior Graduation (4 pm)

Thurs – Tues, May 18-23 Final Exams

Wed, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day

Thurs, May 25 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

In case closings, make-up days will be taken from holidays. Do not schedule vacations during school.

CALENDAR FOR 23 -24 – NEXT YEAR! We have completed our calendar for next year.

Fri - Mon, Aug 4 & 7 Teacher Meetings Tues, Aug 8 Teacher Prep Day

Wed, Aug 9 School Opens with full day of instruction (one day before public schools)

Thu, Aug 24 Senior March through the Arch, Breakfast, Unity Day, Ring Day

Fri, Aug 25 Senior Ring Holiday Mon, Sep 04 Labor Day Holiday Fri, Oct 06 Fall Break Holiday

Fri, Oct 13 End of First Quarter; 11:00 am dismissal Sat, Oct 28 Prospective Student Open House (1 – 3 pm)

Mon, Nov 06 Archdiocesan Formation Day (no classes for students) (tentative)

Mon-Fri, Nov 20 - 24 Thanksgiving Holidays

Fri - Wed, Dec 15-20 Semester Exams; Christmas Holidays begin at 11:45 following exams Wed, Jan 03 Classes resume & Second Semester begins (one day after public schools)

Mon, Jan 15 Martin Luther King Holiday

Fri, Feb 09 Faculty Retreat Day (no classes for students)
Mon-Fri, Feb 12 -16 Mardi Gras / Beginning of Lent Holidays

Fri, Mar 8 End of Third Quarter Fri – Fri, Mar 29 – Apr 05 Easter Holidays Mon-Thu, Apr 29 – May 02 Senior Final Exams

Thu, May 16 Pre-freshmen Promotion Ceremony (6:30 pm)

Sat, May 18 Senior Graduation (4 pm)
Fri – Wed, May 17 - 22 Final Exams for Grades 9 - 11
Thu, May 23 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day

Fri, May 24 Conflict/Makeup Exam Day/Faculty Records Day

CASH BACK PROGRAMS: Please keep the following in mind when you shop:

- AmazonSmile: This website lets customers enjoy the same benefits of shopping on Amazon.com. The AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the price of eligible purchases to the charitable organization of your choice which we hope will be Saint Paul's School! Click here to shop on Amazon Smile: https://smile.amazon.com/ch/58-1638895
- Office Depot: Our number is 70041640 but saying Saint Paul's will do. With all we buy at OD, this helps.
- Box Tops for Education: Each top is worth 10 cents which adds up quickly. Thanks Math Department!.

COLD WEATHER OUTERWEAR: Only Saint Paul's outwear is permissible in cool/cold weather. If your son needs an SPS sweatshirt and money is tight right now, just have him come see me. I will handle this confidentially and appropriately. Remember that we allow ONLY SPS cool weather clothing.

COSTA RICA LASALLIAN SCHOOL EXCHANGE PROGRAM: From SPS faculty member Dr. Shawn Mullet: Trevor Watkins and I have been trying to recruit students from Spanish III, IV, and V for our exchange program with Colegio Lasalle in San Jose, Costa Rica. In our effort to expand student horizons and further fulfill our mission, Saint Paul's has partnered with a fellow Lasallian school in San Jose, Costa Rica. From January 14-28 Saint Paul's will be hosting students from Colegio Lasalle and in July SPS students will spend two weeks in Costa Rica immersed in its culture and beautiful natural landscape. If you are interested in participating in the program, please contact Dr. Shawn Mullet at s.mullet@stpauls.com.

CHRISTIMAS (**NOT WINTER**) **HOLIDAYS:** I worry about our students over the holidays b/c of the temptations to which they will be exposed. Encourage your sons to make healthy choices over the holidays.

CHRISTMAS FUN FACT DEPT: The quintessential Christmas song "Jingle Bells" was originally titled "One Horse Open Sleigh." J.P. Morgan's uncle, James Lord Pierpoint, wrote it in 1857 as a Thanksgiving song describing sleigh races. Now defined as 'Christmas Music', no mention of Christmas, or any other holiday, is made in the song. Another JB fun fact – It is the first song broadcast from space.

DRESS CODE: Students must comply with the dress code. "Note: We have clean, pre-owned uniform shirts in good condition. If the family budget is tight, ask for some of these clothes. Nothing is done to embarrass a student; no one will know. Thanks to those who supply us with their outgrown uniforms.

DRIVER'S LICENSE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE: Your son needs proof of attendance in order to get a learner's permit **and another one** when he gets his permanent license. The forms are in the counseling department or the administration building.

DRUG TESTING: Please speak with your son – especially as we prepare for Christmas holiday. We have resumed drug testing. We use a Random Plus approach: some students will be chosen randomly and some for "cause" (e.g. drop in grades, behavioral problems, etc.) If a student tests positive, he is allowed 100 days before a re-test is given. A second positive results may well jeopardize his enrollment at SPS. We pray that our program serves as a deterrent and is not viewed as punitive. We remain convinced that drug usage is detrimental to adolescent development. BTW, legit medication (for ADD, etc.) is screened by the test. Your son will not be embarrassed in any way if he is selected to be testing. **Results are confidential to counselor and administrators.** And, yes, you may refer your son to us for testing. We pray....



EXAMS: Semester exam schedules begin on Dec 12. Remember that exams are SEMESTER exams that will cover the entire semester. The **semester grade** (the only grade that counts in GPA and the only grade on the transcript) will be averaged in the following manner: 40% for Quarter 1; 40% for Quarter 2; 20 % for the semester exam. Encourage your son, therefore, to take his exams seriously. **It's time to start reviewing**. A good review lasts several weeks and avoids last minute cramming. Learning how to study for semester exams will aid your son considerably in college. The complete exam schedule is printed at the end of this newsletter and is posted on Plus Portals.

HOLIDAYS: The school offices will close during Christmas holidays. Anticipate needs, especially the pesky driver's license form, transcripts, etc. I will be around, if needed, most of the holidays so feel free to call on me but I don't always know how to help.

IT'S A WONDERFUL LIFE RERUN: I have printed this for the last seven years but it's worth another read, as IAWF is a Christmas classic – even though it is way too long! Here's what Director Frank Capra said about the film: IAWL wasn't made for the oh-so bored critics or the oh-so jaded literati. It was for my kind of people. ... A film to tell the weary, the disheartened, and the disillusioned; the wino, the junkie, the prostitute; those behind prison walls and those behind Iron Curtains, that no man is a failure. To show those born slow of foot or slow of mind, those oldest sisters condemned to spinsterhood, and those oldest sons condemned to unschooled toil, that each man's life touches so many other lives. And that if he isn't around it would leave an awful hole. A film that said to the downtrodden, the pushed around, the pauper, "Heads up, fella. No man is

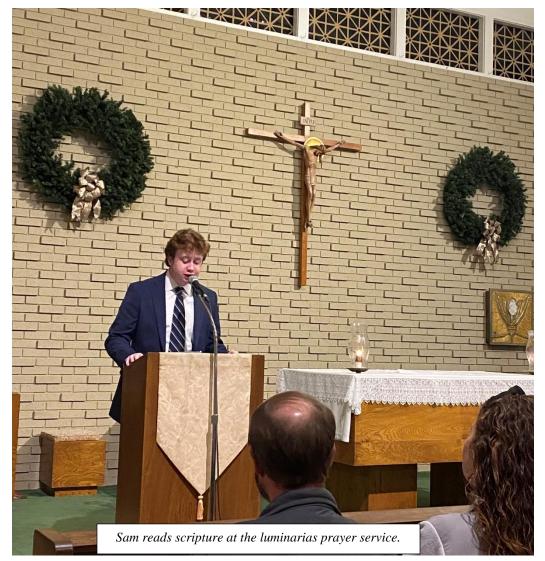
poor who has one friend. Three friends and you're filthy rich." A film that expressed love for the homeless and loveless; for her whose cross is heavy and him whose touch is ashes; for the Magdalenes stoned by hypocrites and the afflicted Lazaruses with only dogs to lick their sores. To shout to the abandoned grandfathers staring vacantly in nursing homes, to the always interviewed but seldom adopted half-breed orphans, to the paupers who refuse to die while medical vultures wait to snatch their hearts and livers, and to those who take cobalt treatments and whistle -- I wanted to shout, "You are the salt of the earth. And It's a Wonderful Life is my memorial to you!"

LAST WEEK:

- Advent Devotions: Strains of "Wait for the Lord" filled the chapel last week. Maranatha!
- Basketball: Lots of games but I don't have all results. But I am sure we are doing well!
- CORE Pack Bocce Ball Field Trip: A grand time was had by all. Thanks, CORE Pack staff & mentors!
- **Fire Marshall Inspection:** Kudos to Don Pressley and his maintenance staff! We passed our recent inspection with "no deficiencies" and this new FM was meticulous about regs with a capital M!
- **Health Inspection:** More kudos to Don and his staff! We passed this inspection last week, too, with flying colors! We take seriously our obligation to education in a "safe and disciplined environment."
- #iGiveCatholic garnered \$17,000+. Many, many thanks to our generous supporters and the Development Team for organizing and promoting the event.
- Luminarias: Last Thursday night's Festival of Lights bathed our campus with beauty and inspiration, with the 1000+ luminarias glowing softly but strongly on a cool, but dry, south Louisiana night. We again had our traditional caroling and chapel service, where student council president Ben Barousse inspired us with his reflection on the WORD in the stadium for that night: CARPE! And a memorial cross was made in the small stands to remember Fr. Otis and Ms. Ruth. And what's an SPS event without food? No problem, thanks to the Mothers' Club reception! Thanks, Student Council and all who helped.
- Snack Day: Thanks, MC! Once again, you outdid yourselves!
- Soccer: Another exciting week for the Wolves! Lots of games but I don't have scores.
- Suicide Prevention Program: Thanks to all who attended this difficult but needed program.
- Ultimate: Spirited games v. Catholic of BR. JV lost, but VARSITY BEAT CATHOLIC 11-1! WOW!
- Wolf Packs: Making and dedicating the luminaria bags is always a special treat! I was touched by the prayers my Wolf Pack wrote. They were inspiring prayers, not just intentions. Wonderful!
- Wolf Tracks: Another great issue by Danielle! Thanks!
- Wrestling: Again, Wolves were in action but I don't have results.

THE PAPER WOLF: We have an award-winning digital newspaper. Subscribe and have your sons to do, too. And send the staff feedback. They love hearing from you. Congrats to TPW for the flurry of articles being written and published. The quality of writing is excellent. Here's the link: http://thepaperwolf.com

PROJECT CHRISTMAS (**FORMERLY ADOPT-A-FAMILY**): We have again partnered with St. Tammany Project Christmas to serve those in need in our community during the Christmas season. We have "adopted" 40 children spread across 15 families. To purchase gifts for these children, we will be collecting monetary donations through religion classes from Monday, November 28th, through Friday, December 9th. Monetary donations also go toward purchasing a Christmas meal for these families and supporting other local agencies in their Christmas initiatives. Monetary donations can be sent via cash or check (made to Saint Paul's school). Thank you for your generosity.



We encourage generosity, but **DO NOT want to cause** an economic hardship.

Speak with your son about charitable giving. Perhaps you can reread as a family the parable of the Widow's Mite. Our teachers are aware that not every student can give a lot – or even give at all. Let me know if your son is feeling uncomfortable with our appeals. And that goes for you, too. Let's face it – tuition does NOT cover the cost of running Saint Paul's. Hence, we have fundraisers. As stated above, I've launched our Annual Drive, and if you can give, that's great. If not, I understand but ask that you pray for Saint Paul's. In turn, we pray for financial health for all

REPORT CARDS AND SEMESTER GRADES: Remember that the first quarter accounts for 40% of the semester grade, with the second quarter accounting for 40% and the semester exam accounting for 20%. Remember that the only grade that really counts is the SEMESTER grade – that's the one that goes on transcripts and is used to calculate grade point average.

RE-REGISTRATION OF CURRENT STUDENTS FOR 2023-24: For those of you who plan:

- Current 8th graders will register during the last two weeks of January. We need to know if any current 8th graders do not plan on returning next year in order for us to know how many new 9th graders we can accept.
- Current $9^{th} 11^{th}$ grade students will be asked to register during the first two weeks of February.
- Current 12th graders well, they don't have to worry about registering for SPS next year!
- In all re-registration for next year, a \$300 registration fee will be due.
- Also, if your son does not plan to return for the second semester of this year, please let me know ASAP. We are getting inquiries about January admissions.

SAFE ENVIRONMENT: all volunteers with St. Paul's must complete safe environment training.



SCHOOL SAFETY: School safety remains paramount for all of us. Promote safety with your son. The media has reported as least four arrests of students in St. Tammany b/c of inappropriate threats. Sheriff Randy Smith: Take every appropriate opportunity to do the same with your sons. Safety is our priority – and it is EVERYONE'S JOB. Report ANY rumor or threat to safety about which you hear. Encourage your sons to report, too. All visitors to campus must sign in and receive a Visitor's Pass. You may not just wander the campus. Thanks for understanding this procedure. Our prayers rise to heaven for a safe school year and the elimination of violence of all kinds in our schools – and in all of society.

SENIOR PARENTS: March through the Arch pictures are in -- at no charge, courtesy of Expressions Photography. I avoid giving them directly to the seniors as in the past, many never made it home and were discovered at bottom of book bags or back of cars. You may pick up the

pic yourself in the Admin Building during business hours or give your son a note authorizing him to obtain the pic. BTW, they are GREAT.

SILENT SUSTAINED READING: Daily, we do SSR (Silent Sustained Reading) during the first 15 minutes of Block 2. During this time, everyone reads silently for 15 minutes. This is not a time for homework, tutoring, studying or doing assigned reading, but is designed to make reading a school-wide priority by reading for pleasure. We hope to develop a population of self-motivated readers. The program was created over 30 years ago at the University of Vermont and has resulted in increased vocabulary development, reading fluency and comprehension, writing quality, improved test scores, increased knowledge on many topics, and increased reading out of school. Students must bring their own reading material but we will have classrooms stocked with magazines, novels, short stories, etc. Help your son prepare for this initiative and have him come prepared every day thereafter. He should bring a PRINTED READING MATERIAL – not electronic material Consider initiating a family SSR time, too! I'll keep you posted as to how things go.

SLOW YOUR ROLL. This week is the three-year anniversary of Mayor Mark Johnson's initiative to improve driving habits within Covington – one of his main campaign pledges. Did you know:

- Two of the most often repeated complaints to the candidates in last year's election were speeding and the running of stop signs? And SPS students/parents came in for their fair share of blame!
- On any given weekday, over 15,000 people drive into and out of Covington?
- Many of our streets were laid out PRIOR to the invention of the automobile, thus not designed for cars?

Mayor Mark's goal is "to change driving habits in our city...to have each of us understand that speeds over 25 MPH are not safe on most of our streets." The Mayor is asking everyone to "relax, take a deep breath and slow down. I applaud the Mayor's initiative and pledged to him our support. Please reinforce this with your sons. And please set a good example yourself, as in the words of Saint La Salle: "Preach by example, and practice before the eyes of the young what you wish them to accept."

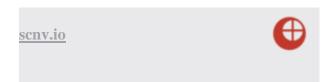
SOCIAL HOSTING: With the holiday season upon us, the temptations for alcohol use by students increases. One issue facing parents is hosting parties where teens are exposed to or even given alcohol. This is known as "social hosting." Here is a link to a brochure on this issue of social hosting. It is worth the read. Here's the link: http://fb.mediarelay.com/pbda246

SOCIAL MEDIA: Connect with the Wolves on Social Media to see the latest pictures and posts of all the wonderful events at St. Paul's School. The Facebook and Twitter feeds are on our newly re-vamped website, or you can follow us at

Facebook @St.Pauls.School.Covington.Louisiana

Twitter @SPSWolfpack

SOCCER: Our JV & Varsity Soccer Wolves are not only showing their prowess on the field, but also in the realm of IT; here's a QR code to scan or click for rosters, schedules and results. Congrats, SPS Soccer!



SOCIAL MEDIA II: Speak with your sons about responsible social media use. Inappropriate postings can have legal ramifications. SPS reserves the right to impose consequences for social media misuse.

SPORTSMANSHIP: Recently, we received a strongly worded letter from LHSAA Executive Director Eddie Bonine concerning poor sportsmanship incidents in pre-football season events. Saint Paul's will be adamant in insisting on proper behavior from players, coaches, students, & fans. We will not be penalized by the LHSAA.

SSA's DOVE MARKET: Postponed from last week. Here is the new info:







Scan To Register for Photos With Santa **STUDENT EMAIL:** Students MUST use their SPS-issued email when communicating with teachers.

STUDY HALL AFTER SCHOOL: Ben's Den (aka the library) opens every afternoon (Monday-Friday) until 4:00. Mention this service to your sons who are on campus after school with nothing to do or who are waiting for a late ride or a practice. Faculty will supervise the space.

SUICIDE & CRISIS LIFELINE: 988: On July 16, 2022, Louisiana joined the rest of the nation in launching 988, the new three-digit dialing code for the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline to make it easier for people to receive assistance during a mental health crisis. When you call (multiple languages), text (English only) or chat 988, you will be connected to trained, compassionate crisis counselors who will listen to your concerns, provide support, and connect you with local resources. The chat feature is available through the Lifeline's website (www.suicidepreventionlifeline.org/chat/). People can use 988 if they are having thoughts of suicide, mental health or substance use crises, or any other kind of emotional distress. People can also dial 988 if they are

worried about a loved one who may need crisis support.



STARTING TODAY: It now only takes three digits to reach the National Suicide Prevention Lifeline. People who need to talk to trained professionals can dial or text 988.

bit.ly/3odaQUI



988

The mental health version of 911 is set to launch nationwide July 16.

THANKSGIVING TO CHRISTMAS: This period of the school year can be a real challenge. While it should be a time of good will and cheer, often we find ourselves handling a crisis. The best way to prevent any difficulty is through the Lasallian virtues of caring and vigilance – which will be in full force. Teachers will teach until the very end. **Parents, please remind your students to adhere to ALL procedures & policies and to think before they act.** We will show care to the students, but we will be vigilant.

THEATER REPAIRS/IMPROVEMENTS: Enough work has been completed to allow the play to open this week! There is still more to be done (roof, drainage, under stage strengthening, etc. but the show must go on!

TUTORING: The National Honor Society provides free tutoring at lunch. Signage is all over campus as to location. Encourage your son to take advantage of this service as soon as he needs it. First Quarter report cards are only a few weeks away! Get help now if needed!



National Honor Society tutoring begins on Tuesday, Aug 16

Algebra I and II - Geometry Science - Math XL - Test Prep Homework Help











TUTORING

Mon - Tue - Wed - Thurs Lunch Period

LaSalle Hall L202



VALUE OF WAITING: During this period of Advent, a time of waiting, I remind all that the ability to "wait" is a chief characteristic for success in health, work, and life as shown by over 40 years of research at Stanford University. Beginning with the famous "marshmallow experiment" published in 1972 (children could choose to have one marshmallow now or two if they waited 15 minutes), researchers conducted follow up studies and tracked each child's progress in a number of areas. They found that the children who were willing to delay gratification and waited to receive the second marshmallow ended up having higher SAT scores, lower levels of substance abuse, lower likelihood of obesity, better responses to stress, better social skills as reported by their parents, and generally better scores in a range of other life measures. The researchers followed each child for more than 40 years and repeatedly, the group who waited patiently for the second marshmallow succeeded in whatever capacity they were measuring. In other words, this series of experiments proved that the ability to delay gratification was critical for success in life. Now if we could only get our students to buy into this! Here's the full article: http://jamesclear.com/delayed-gratification

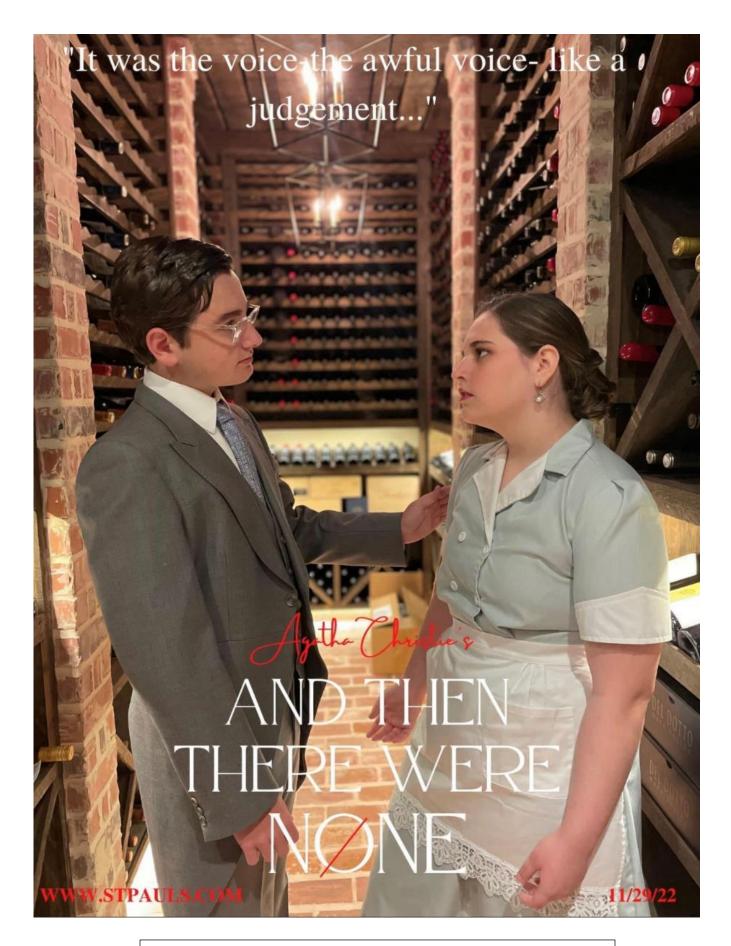
VAPING: Yes, it remains a problem. Parents are the key to prevention. The message is clear: there are too many unknowns in vaping for it to be considered safe – especially for the young (who, unfortunately, are ignoring the warnings of science.) Please stress this with your sons. Do not allow him to become addicted. We have made too much progress in this area to go backwards.

WEEKLY HUMOR: My traditional Christmas jokes to honor the season:

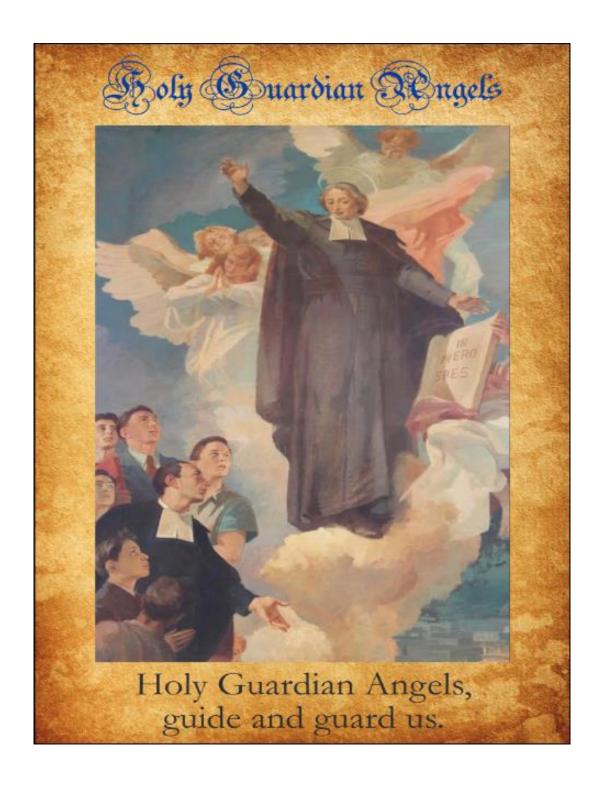
- Q: What did the ghosts say to Santa Claus? A: We'll have a boo Christmas without you.
- Q: What did Santa shout to his toys on Christmas Eve? A: Okay everyone, sack time!!
- Q: What do snowmen eat for breakfast? A: Snowflakes.
- Q: If Santa Claus and Mrs. Claus had a child, what would he be called? A: A subordinate clause.
- Q: Why did the elf push his bed into the fireplace? A: He wanted to sleep like a log.
- Q: Why did Santa spell Christmas N-O-E? A: Because the angel had said, "No L!"
- Q: Why does Santa Claus go down the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Because it "soots" him!
- Q: What do you do if Santa gets stuck in your chimney? A: Pour Santa flush on him.
- Q: Did you hear one of Santa's reindeer works for Proctor and Gambel? A: Comet cleans sinks
- Q: What do you call people who are afraid of Santa Claus? A: Claustrophobic.
- Q: Why does Scrooge love Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer? A: Because every buck is dear to him.
- Q: How come you never hear anything about the 10th reindeer "Olive"? A: Yeah, you know, "Olive the other reindeer, used to laugh and call him names"
- Holiday Tip: Never catch snowflakes with your tongue until the birds have gone south for winter.
- Q: What did Adam say on the day before Christmas? A: It's Christmas, Eve!
- Q: What do you have in December that you don't have in any other month? A: The letter "D"!
- Q: What does Father Christmas suffer from if he gets stuck in a chimney? A: Santa Claustrophobia!
- Q: What do you call a letter sent up the chimney on Christmas Eve? A: Black mail!
- And for the musically literate: Make out your Chopin Liszt early before Debussy season, when you have time to check out Verdi good bargains, can still get gifts Faure good price, not have to Handel large crowds and have time to give Bach things you decide you don't want.



Thank you, SPS Student Council et al for a memorable night! Maranatha!



The play is great! Get your tickets on our website! Geaux Marian Players!



MARCH THROUGH THE ARCH PICURES FOR SENIORS ARE IN: Expressions Photography did an outstanding job in producing this year's March through the Arch pictures for seniors. The pictures are in the Administration Building and may be picked up during business hours. If you want your son to pick up the pic, please send a note authorizing him to do so. Unfortunately, we must do this as in the past, some seniors got the pics and left them in their book bags or back car seats and the pics never made it home.

Thanks to Expressions for making this year's pics so memorable.



December

- 5 FGAB
- 6 CDEF President's Assembly
- 7 − GABC
- 8 DEF * late start for remediation & make-up work/mass (dress uniform day)
- 9 GABC
- 12 DEFG
- 13-16 First Semester Exams
- 16 Faculty Luncheon

January

- 3 ABCD Classes Resume
- 4 EFGA President's Assembly (Wed.)
- 5 − BCDE
- 6 FGAB
- 9 CDEF
- 10 GABC Pack Time Sudden Impact/Falk. G Block
- 11 DEFG
- 12 ABCD late start*
- 13 EFGA
- 16 MLK Holiday
- 17 BCDE President's Assembly
- 18 FGAB 8th HR Breakfast
- 19 CDEF 9th HR Breakfast
- 20 GABC 10th HR Breakfast

- 23 DEFG
- 24 ABCD Pack Time
- 25 EFGA Mass Feast of St. Paul (dress uniform day)/Snack Day
- 26 BCDE 11th HR Breakfast Sudden Impact/Falk. B Block
- 27 FGAB 12th HR Breakfast
- 30 CDEF
- 31 GABC President's Assembly

February

- 1 − DEFG
- 2 ABCD
- 3 EFGA
- 6 BCDE Parent/Teacher Conferences 5-7 in BAC
- 7 FGAB Pack Time
- 8 CDEF Pre-ACT 10
- 9 GABC Pre-ACT 9
- 10 DEFG Pre-ACT 8
- 13 ABCD
- 14 EFGA President's Assembly (dress uniform day)/Snack day
- 15 BCDE Junior Retreat
- 16 FGAB Junior Retreat
- 17 Faculty retreat (no classes)
- 27 CDEF
- 28 GABC Pack Time

March

- 1 DEFG
- 2 ABCD
- 3 EFGA
- 6 BCDE
- 7 FGAB Junior in-school ACT
- 8 CDEF President's Assembly
- 9 GABC Core Pack Breakfast/Late start
- 10 DEFG End of 3rd Quarter
- 13 ABCD
- 14 EFG SSA Challenge/1 PM Activities in Stadium*
- 15 ABCD
- 16 EFGA late start*/5 Core Meal
- 17 BCDE Mass (dress uniform day)/Snack day
- 20-24 Senior Retreats*
- 20 FGAB
- 21 CDEF
- 22 GABC



- 23 DEFG 8th HR Breakfast
- 24 ABCD 9th HR Breakfast
- 27 EFGA
- 28 BCDE President's Assembly
- 29 FGAB 10th HR Breakfast
- 30 CDEF 11th HR Breakfast
- 31- GABC 12th HR Breakfast

April

- 1 Junior-Senior Prom
- 3 DEFG
- 4 ABCD Pack Time*
- 5 EFGA Passion Play for Juniors
- 6 BCDE Mandatum (dress uniform day)
- 7 14 Easter Holidays
- 17-21 Leadership Week
- 17 FGAB
- 18 CDEF Leadership Breakfast/Teacher Appreciation Lunch/Snack Day
- 19 GABC Leadership Guest Speaker
- 20 DEFG
- 21 ABCD Year in Review Assembly
- 24 EFGA Last Pack Time for Seniors; Class Level Elections
- 25 BCDE President's Assembly (last for seniors)
- 26 FGAB Senior Exams
- 27 CDEF Senior Exams
- 28 GABC Senior Exams

May

- 1 DEFG Mass (dress uniform day)
- 2 ABCD Pack Time (last one)
- 3 EFGA
- 4 BCDE late start*
- 5 FGAB
- 8 CDEF 8th Grade Exams
- 9 GABC Last President's Assembly / 8th Grade Exams
- 10 DEFG 8th Grade Exams/Senior Grad Night
- 11 ABCD Athletic Awards/8th Grade Promotion
- 12 EFGA Academic Awards dress uniform day
- 13 12th Grade Graduation
- 15 BCDE
- 16 FGAB
- 17 CDEFG*
- 18-23 Final Exams
- 23 Last Day of School 11:30 Dismissal/ Faculty Luncheon

First Semester Exam Schedule 2022

Monday, December 12 – DEFG

Regular Schedule w/ SSR (84 min.)

CHIMES 8:00

BLOCK 1 8:05- 9:34 BLOCK 2/SSR 9:41-11:20 LUNCH 11:20-12:00 BLOCK 3 12:05-1:29 BLOCK 4 1:36- 3:00

Tuesday, December 13 – A Review/A Exam (BC)

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD A REVIEW 8:10 -8:55

Break 8:55-9:05

PERIOD A EXAM 9:10 -10:40

PERIOD B REVIEW 10:50 – 11:30

LUNCH 11:30 – 12:10

PERIOD C REVIEW 12:15 – 1:00

DISMISSAL 1:00

Wednesday, December 14 – BC (DE)

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD B EXAM 8:10 – 9:40

PERIOD C EXAM 9:50 – 11:20

LUNCH 11:20 – 11:50

PERIOD D REVIEW 11:50 – 12:20

PERIOD E REVIEW 12:30 – 1:00

DISMISSAL 1:00

Thursday, December 15 – DE (FG)

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD D EXAM 8:10 – 9:40

PERIOD E EXAM 9:50 – 11:20

LUNCH 11:20 – 11:50

PERIOD F REVIEW 11:50 – 12:20

PERIOD G REVIEW 12:30 - 1:00

DISMISSAL 1:00

Friday, December 16 - FG

CHIMES 8:00

PERIOD F EXAM 8:10 – 9:40

PERIOD G EXAM 9:50 – 11:20

DISMISSAL 11:20

Whew! Enough! Hope I haven't taxed your patience too much this week – but you get a break for the next THREE Sundays! Next newsletter scheduled for Sun, Jan 1, 2023!

As usual, I'll close with a paraphrase of one of my favorite NPR radio shows (which I can't listen to any more and LOL since the show went off the air and WWNO stopped broadcasting reruns of the show): well, it's happened again – you've squandered perfectly good time (in the Christmas season, no less!) reading my ramblings!

Pray that things go well as we reach the penultima week of the semester! Time marches relentlessly on, and the only thing we can do about it is decide how we use each second of each minute of each day of each week of each month of each.... OK, you get the idea. May the final weeks of 2022 (can you believe it?) be ones of grace and blessing! Know of my prayer for you and your family. Again, thanks for being part of the 2022-23 edition of Saint Paul's – our 112th year!

Brother Ray Bulliard, FSC

Praying for the Grace of Patience in Advent as the 17th Christian Brother President of Saint Paul's School

"Young people are not bad because they have bad hearts. They are bad because of bad example. As teachers, you have no greater responsibility than to give your students good example."

--Saint John Baptist de La Salle, Patron Saint of Teachers, c.1705 Meditations for Sunday

As we prepare for the coming of the Prince of Peace, I reprint the Lasallian Prayer for Peace which the Brothers pray daily: We pray to You, Lord, God of life and God of those who hope! Listen to our prayer for the whole world, for peace among all peoples, for prosperity in all lands. We pray to You that evil may be overcome and that all wars may end. We pray to you especially for the members of our Lasallian Family, who suffer from war, injustice and intolerance and for the children and young people who are poor and neglected. We pray too, God, for peace in our lives; in our towns, in our schools, in our families and in our own hearts. We pray for a peace that the world cannot give us. We pray for a peace that will make us whole and transform us into ambassadors of justice for your sake. Lord, give us Your peace! Amen.

Wait for the Lord, whose day is near. Wait for the Lord; be strong; take heart!



.... by doing ordinary things extraordinarily well, making courageous choices, doing God's will, remaining faithful, being guided to God, continuing our Lasallian Mission, living courageously, respecting all people, living the Gospel, and being guided and guarded by the angels! Let's give it our best this week and Advent with no problems – as befits a Lasallian Catholic National Blue-Ribbon school.

SPS's 15 National Merit Scholar



